

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1257

By Johnson P

A RESOLUTION to recognize Tennessee artist Jerry Adams and to celebrate his art.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize those talented citizens of this state whose creative abilities find outlet and expression through art; and

WHEREAS, one such highly talented and creative Tennessean is Jerry Adams, who, since 1980, has been painting in watercolors and acrylic; Mr. Adams was born December 13, 1951 in Maury City in Crockett County to Grace and Dory Adams and was diagnosed as having Cerebral Palsy. His development as an artist in the medium of painting is all the more remarkable, given that his motor skills have been severely impaired by his condition; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Adams regards art as a means of his personal salvation, giving him respite from the mounting frustration of limited choices imposed by an uncooperative body; he is, to a large extent, a self-styled painter, but was fortunate to study under Hazel King at Nashville's Centennial Park Art Center, and he has also benefited from the presence of a few gifted artists at his support agency, Progress, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Progress, Inc. is a not-for-profit agency created to enhance the lives of people with developmental disabilities by encouraging their full participation in community life; founded in 1971 by a group of concerned parents, Progress, Inc. has grown to be a leader in Tennessee for supported services and has been the recipient of numerous accolades for its innovative programs and services; and

WHEREAS, Progress, Inc. currently serves over 200 individuals, including 123 served through residential services in 65 homes; its Day service programs serve almost 80 individuals, and the career of Mr. Adams is testament to the potential for success of Progress, Inc.'s support programs; and



WHEREAS, adjusting admirably to the parameters imposed by his disability, Jerry Adams works with broad, sweeping strokes, first layering and then blending colors to create dreamlike images with a feeling of depth and motion; his body of work has been described as surreal and abstract in style, giving expression to the full range of human experience, from raw, murky emotions to joyous freedom and release; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Adams' painting throbs with emotional intensity because his art gives outlet to his innermost expressions, which are not easily expressed in speech or writing; he produces hand-painted, blank greeting cards that, like his larger-scale works, are original art; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Adams' work appears in numerous private collections in and around Nashville and has been exhibited at the Nashville International Airport, Vanderbilt University, The Tennessee Performing Arts Center and First American Bank; no stranger to accolades, he received the Metro Division County "Disabled Artist of the Year" award in 1993, top honors in the Professional Division at the Tennessee State Fair in 1998, and later that year, his work was displayed in a grand opening show at East Nashville's The Other Side Gallery, where he has been invited to utilize studio space; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Adams seems well on his way to achieving the exposure and acceptance required to make his art a viable enterprise; his manifest talent surely elevates him to the level of a duly recognized artist, not requiring any modifying term; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and applaud Tennessee artist Jerry Adams for his dedication and commitment to his art, express our profound appreciation for his work and offer him our best wishes for every success and satisfaction in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.